**North Korea reportedly in a food crisis, with just 2 months of food left for her people.**

North Korea's Kim Jong-un has declared a national food crisis. People are only consuming about 450 calories a day, and are already starving. Beijing does not appear to be helping her neighbor. Food supplies are only sufficient to feed North Koreans two more months. Typhoons have added to the misery in Kim's kingdom. The despot's public admission of a severe food shortage is “getting tense,” and that the state run economy cannot afford to feed its citizens.

The food shortage is exacerbated by the Covid virus panic that is reportedly uncontrolled throughout the country.

Kim insists that their nuclear program, believed to be in limbo after a 2017 nuclear testing disaster, is continuing to build its nuclear stockpile as defense against any attacks from the US. There is no evidence that there has been any progress in recuperating their nuclear programs. Recent rocket launches were simply rocket tests without any warhead displays.

Kim appears to have lost weight, following suspected heart problems and thus all North Korean analysts are seeking accurate information of Kim's health.

N. Koreans vulnerability gives the U.S. President some leverage to negotiate for our objectives. This is an unusual opportunity to pressure Kim into some useful agreements.

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**SOURCES:**

<https://www.the-sun.com/news/3117328/north-korea-will-run-out-of-food-in-two-months-amid-fears-kim-jong-un-faces-repeat-of-famine-that-killed-millions/amp/>

**1. KIM FOOD CRISIS North Korea to run out of food in TWO MONTHS amid fears Kim Jong Un faces repeat of famine that killed millions**

**Alice Peacock, Alex Blair, Jun 19 2021**

NORTH Korea could run out of food in just two months, amid fears Kim Jong Un faces a repeat of the famine that killed millions.

The price of staple foods have skyrocketed as a result of intense storm damage to the state’s produce industry, with items like coffee reportedly being sold for more than £70 a packet.

North Korean food prices have reportedly skyrocketed

Typhoons and restricted border access limiting trade with neighboring China during Covid-19 are being blamed for the food shortage

Kim Jong Un addressed the growing crisis in his country’s agricultural sector on Tuesday, admitting the situation was “getting tense”.

The despot also said the state-run economy cannot feed its citizens.

Recent reports from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) said North Korea had just two months of supplies left.

There are growing fears of a repeat of the devastating 1990s famine, which according to some estimates killed more than three million North Koreans.

The nation was said to be suffering a whopping 860,000 tonnes of supply shortages nationwide.

While Kim has refused to detail the extent of the food shortage crisis, he has recently warned citizens to be prepared for another “Arduous March,” the name given to the 1990s food crisis.

“I made up my mind to ask the WPK (Workers’ Party of Korea) organisations at all levels, including its Central Committee and the cell secretaries of the entire party, to wage another more difficult ‘arduous march’ in order to relieve our people of the difficulty, even a little,” Kim said in April.

While the price of essentials like rice and fuel have reportedly held firm, CNN reports citizens in the state’s capital Pyongyang are paying triple the regular price for potatoes, and £50 for some teabags.

The bleak outlook was expressed during a conference session attended by the ruling Workers’ Party’s Central Committee on Tuesday, and originally reported by the isolated country’s official KCNA media arm.

The North Korean dictator also spoke about the rationing on the same week he appeared to have trimmed down from his hefty 22 stone.

It was the first time the camera-shy dictator had been seen in more than a month after he did yet another one of his vanishing acts.

Seoul-based website NK News, published photos suggesting Kim had even tightened the strap on his favourite IWC Portofino £10,000 watch.

Kim Jong Un has recently slimmed down, following a major cardiovascular procedure

Kim has refused to detail the extent of the food shortage crisis

International trade sanctions have long plagued the pariah state, but the devastating impact of both Covid-19 combined with restrictions on importing goods has brought the grim situation to a head, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian.

The other cause for the food fears is due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

North Korea sealed its borders to contain the spread of the disease, but commerce with China suffered.

North Korea is heavily dependent on China for not only food but also its fertilizer and fuel.

The North Korean leader said he has left the door open for talks with US President Joe Biden.

However, he has admitted he is prepared for “both dialogue and confrontation” over the topic of nuclear arms. Kim has long remained adamant against resuming arms talks with the US, which could offer relief from sanctions choking the North Korean economy.

Despite the bleak economic situation, Kim has reportedly continued to escalate his nuclear arsenal, which North Korea says is to prevent an invasion from America.

And as the food crisis escalates, North Korea has stepped up repression of its own citizens.

A renewed crackdown on the importation of foreign cultural influences such as K-pop has been launched, with Kim describing the aforementioned South Korean import as a “vicious cancer” plaguing North Korea’s youth.

The dictator believes the genre of music is corrupting the minds of the next generation, influencing their “attire, hairstyles, speeches and behaviours”.

The new legislation could see offenders, including high school students, serve anywhere between five and 15 years of hard labour if they are caught watching prohibited content such as South Korean dramas.

Global internet is banned by default in North Korea, with official government broadcasts the only media made available on local TV and radio. The authoritarian nation also employs disciplinary officers to roam the streets and correct men with long hair and women with revealing or tight clothing.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/16/world/asia/north-korea-food-shortage.amp.html>

**2. North Korea Is Facing a ‘Tense’ Food Shortage**

*Kim Jong-un said addressing food insecurity was “a top priority” in the country, where millions died in a famine during the ’90s.*

**By** [Choe Sang-Hun](https://www.nytimes.com/by/choe-sang-hun)**, *NYT*, June 16, 2021**

SEOUL — North Korea is bracing itself for a possible food crisis in the coming months.

Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, issued a rare warning about a “tense” food situation brought about by extensive flooding, the coronavirus pandemic and international sanctions, the state news media reported on Wednesday.

Mr. Kim convened the Central Committee of his ruling Workers’ Party on Tuesday to assess the state of affairs in his isolated country, and said resolving the food shortage was “a top priority,” according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

“In particular, the people’s food situation is now getting tense as the agricultural sector failed to fulfill its grain production” after flood damage, Mr. Kim was quoted as saying in the meeting. “It is essential for the whole party and state to concentrate on farming.”

Although it is no secret that North Korea’s economy is in trouble, it is highly unusual for Mr. Kim to acknowledge a national food shortage as publicly and clearly as he did this week.

In its latest assessment of the country’s food insecurity, the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization warned that if the country’s food shortage is not covered by imports or foreign aid, “households could experience a harsh lean period between August and October.”

Mr. Kim’s warning came two months after he ordered his party to wage an “arduous march” to relieve the economic pain of his people. The April remarks caught the attention of some outside analysts because the term “arduous march” is usually invoked by the North to refer to a crisis that must be overcome, such as the famine in the 1990s that caused millions of people to die.

So far, no sign has emerged from North Korea that the country is in danger of another devastating famine, but South Korean reporters monitoring market prices in North Korea said that the price of rice has been rising sharply in recent weeks.

Many essential goods, including medicine, are also becoming more scarce, as the pandemic forced North Korea to close its border with China, its only major trading partner, said Jiro Ishimaru, chief editor of Asia Press International, a website in Japan that monitors North Korea with the help of clandestine correspondents inside the country.

Some families have begun selling furniture to raise cash for food, Mr. Ishimaru said. The number of homeless children scavenging for food is also on the rise in some parts of the country, though it is difficult to reliably assess the situation, given North Korea’s isolation, he said.

Mr. Kim’s acknowledgment of North Korea’s food shortage was another sign that his economic policies were not working.

When he took power a decade ago, one of his first promises was to ensure that his long-suffering people would “no longer have to tighten their belt.” But those economic plans suffered a setback when the country’s growing weapons arsenal led to punishing international sanctions. Mr. Kim’s efforts to lift the sanctions went nowhere when his diplomacy with former President Donald J. Trump collapsed in 2019.

When the pandemic and floods hit the country last year, Mr. Kim ordered his country to reject any international aid for fear that outside help would lead to a possible Covid-19 outbreak. (North Korea claims to have no cases of Covid-19, but outside health experts remain skeptical, given the country’s poor public health system.)

Last October, when he addressed a large crowd during a military parade celebrating his party’s anniversary, Mr. Kim appeared to hold back tears as he apologized for failing to improve the lives of his people. In January, he once again admitted to his economic failures, announcing a new five-year plan and vowing to strengthen the country’s nuclear and missile capabilities.

He has since promised to lead his country through the sanctions by building a “self-reliant economy” that produces more goods at home and depends less on trade with the outside world. On Wednesday, North Korea claimed that its industrial output had grown by 25 percent this year.

North Korea’s grain production was estimated to have dropped from 4.64 million tons in 2019 to 4.4 million last year, the Korea Development Institute of the South said in a report published this month. That creates an overall grain shortage of 1.35 million tons this year. North Korea has always suffered annual grain shortages, though the country has tried to fill the gap with trade and international aid, especially from China.

“This year, the North’s food shortage is of a scale that it cannot handle on its own,” said Kwon Tae-jin, the author of the Korea Development Institute report. North Korea must relax its control on market activities and ask for “large-scale food aid” from Beijing to help relieve the food shortage, Mr. Kwon said.

The North also indicated on Wednesday that the party meeting would include a discussion on how to respond to the Biden administration’s recent North Korea policy statements, saying the agenda included “analyzing the current international situation and our Party’s corresponding direction.”

During a summit in Washington last month, President Biden and his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, agreed to ​seek “diplomacy and dialogue” with the North, and to build on the 2018 Singapore agreement, which Mr. Trump signed with Mr. Kim. Washington also said it would take a “calibrated” and “practical” approach ​toward the country and appointed a new special envoy on North Korea.

Mr. Kim’s government has yet to respond to the overtures.